

The historie of Blanchardine.

and now every one became much more affectionate and sub-
misse to Blanchardine then before: But to recount the solace
which the Quene and her Lord Blanchardine conceived, far
surpasseth my slender capacitie to recite, and therefore I leave
it to the iudgement of the Reader to imagine. All studious
care for her cloathing, her dyet, her walkes, her staves: yea
all thinges which eyther art or nature could frame, complot,
or procure, were inuented, Shewes to delight her eye, Mu-
sicke to please hir eares, accates to feede her tast, Swete o-
dours and perfumes to comfort her senses: So that (in very
deede) neuer was Cupide more desirous to please the humor
of his Piches, then was this noble Blanchardine to delighte
the fantasie of his Quene, and in proesse of time, when the
determined course of her trauell drew nere, that she shoulde
be deliuered, the skillfullest Patrons, and woemen of great-
est grauitie and deepest experience, were at hand ready (as in
such a case) to performe the duties belonged vnto her.

And the prefixed time being now come, shee bore to Blan-
chardine a most princely babe, faire and amiable to beholde,
strong and mightie of body, streight in limbes, sweet in lookes,
whom at the christning they named Raimbald.

Now was a special regarde and choice made for the Nurse
that shoulde undertake the charge of this princely childe, and
bringing of him vp, which ere long was found, to the greate
content of the Parents, and benefit of the babe, as hereafter
you shall heare.

¶ CHAP. 2.

The byrth of Satrapa, daughter to Sadony and Beatrix.



Now returne we a little to recount of the suc-
cesse of Sadony, and his faire Beatrix, who
now being vnited and coupled together, with
an indissoluble band of loue, and amitie, ha-
uing what they could wish, & wishing what
they woulde, after the establishing of quiet
peace,

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peace within the Realme of Cassidony, to the benefit of the Subjects and content of themselves. Fortune smiling at their happinesse, determined to accumulate more then they imagined. For after some few monethes after the arrival of Saddon to Cassidony, from the siege of Tormaday, the beautifull Beatrix his wife, conceived with childe, which being perceived was not long concealed, but made manifest to the nobles and subjects of Cassidony (then which a greater content, nor more happy tidings could happen) And although the naturall and home-borne people of Cassidony did at the first maligne and disdaine the rule of Saddon, bring a forraign prince and an Alien unto them, yet every one hauing founde him Honourable, and felt his liberality, and more seeing the kind and affable rule which he with clemencie did order their commonwealth: and that he was now wedded to their Princesse and Queene, by whome he was verie likely to haue Issue to succeed in the gouernment of the kingdom. Every one, of what quality, calling, condition or state soeuer, thought themselves most fortunate, that God had sent such a benefit as an happy and true successor to the Crowne, likely to issue from their loynes.

Saddon, whose wandering thoughtes before this time were scarce come to the period of their happinesse, seeing his Queene to grow daily greater and greater with childe, and perceining the Nobles and people of Cassidony to congratulate this happy fortune, was now himselfe ravished in contemplation, and glad beyonde measure of this blisse: and calling to minde his idle course of future time mispent, the fortunate arrival of Blanchardine at his fathers court at Maryenbourg, his dangerous attempts and happy escapes from imminent dangers and determined slaughters, & which was the greatest of all his comfortes, that he was now wedded to the beautifull Beatrix, and that of his seed he was conceived & great with childe, to the generall content and applause of all his nobles, friends and adherents. Prostrating himselfe before the Maiestie of Blanchardines God, he began to make his Vowes in these tearmes.

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Alondul, mighty, and righteous God, whose Diuinity is inscrutable, whose power is exceeding humane reach, whose workes though apparant in our eyes, yet not to be comprehended. What am I: or whence are my desertes, that thou being full of Deitie, dainest to pittie and aduance the estate of me, in whom remaineth nothing that is of worth. If I looke backe into the errors of my youth, my courage begins to quaille. If into my middle age, my hainous offences presse me downe. If into my present estate, my doctes confounde my thoughtes, neither hath my eie pittied, neyther hath my hande beene liberall, neyther hath my toung beene thankfull, neyther hath mine heart beene any whit inclined to performe and fulfill thy will: yet as thou in mercy not in Iustice dost ponder my case: so I most humbly intreat thee to perseuer to thy glory and the commodity and benefit of this myghtie people, ouer whom (though most vnworthy) thou hast appointed me to rule and raigne: so shall mine eye haue still reflection vpon thy Maiestie, my hande be bountifull in yelding sacrifice vnto thee, my toung lowd to extol thy praise, and my heart deuoted to do thy seruice. And hauing finished this deuout and zealous praier, he presently entred the Presence, where he founde the Queene passing pleasant, sporting and delighting her selfe among her Ladies, at whose approach the vermillion red so bepainted her Alablaster cheekes, that vnderneath could Apelles display so sweet and beautifull a feature. But why spend I time in praising of that, which nature and Art had long studied to polish.

Sadony firing his amiable eyes vpon the dainty Cabinet and Iuory couch of Cupid (I meane vpon her belly) wherein intombed laie the fuel of his thought, the Babe that should succede and follow him, spring from his loynes: such a sudden ioy did surprize and enter into his hart, through the clear and bright center of his eyes, that for the present time he stood as in a fraunce, wotting not what to speak, or how to begin, vntill the Queene kindly taking him by the hand, began smilingly to say.

How now my L. what so soon metamorphized: so soon mery

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and so quickly melancholye, a penny for your thought. The King loth to be taken tardie in his answer, replied, I imagined faire D. that this my sodain approach into this place, where none but Ladies are assembled, had bin displeasing to you, and therefore I began to accuse my selfe of presumption to haue entred so suddainely, and vsent for: but since I perceiue that your affaires are not more secret then is behouefull for me to heare, and that my presence is no whit preiudiciall to your sportes, I am the beter satisfied. In faith quoth the Quene (partly perceiuing the substance of his coniectures, by her watchfull regarde of the Princes eye) you may very wel excuse the matter, but I very well knowe, that some other deuination, or pleasant conceit was hammering in your head, which now you please secretly to conceale: but whatsoeuer, I leaue to your selfe, as proper to none to know besides, & with these sweet interlocutions, they marched arme in arme conferring about some pretty toyes, such as commonlie are incident to those that do intirely loue. But to leaue prolixitie and come to our purpose, the Quene grewe daylye greater and greater, expecting the expiration of the time of her deliuerie, when she brought forth a Daughter of wonderfull beautie, whom at the font, they named Satrapa, to the happie content of the parents, and generall ioy of the subjects: And although the waightie burgen which the tender Princesse had long borne, and the hard traueil which before she neuer felte had till this time beene painfull, yet the sighte of this amiable Childe did quite bannish all cares: so that now her onely sportes and continuall pastimes were spent in the dandeling and dalliaunce of the babe. Loke how the Dowe after contagious stormes, hauing a while pruned her selfe by the parching heate of Ihebus rayes, delights to view her lesse within a Christall glasse: so this faire Quene hauinge scaped the dangerous passage of her hard trauell, delighted her selfe in beholding her Image within the christiline eye of her amiable daughter, and each pange which before she had endured, was salued with ten thousand pleasures, and euerie griefe with more then humain gladnes.

Thus

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Thus doated this Angel-like Duene and her valiant husband, vpon the pleasant floudes of fortune. and seated in the throne of happines. encomrass win the impregnable walles of pleasure: so that the cannon shot of aduersitie, coulde not so much as pierce, or once batter the Bulwarke of their blysse, and as the fountain Hippeneis is of that strength, that whosoever drinketh thereof, is so sodainely drowned in delight, that no griefe of what force soeuer it be, is of force to quail it: euen so these princes hauing suckt the sweet Arromaticke balme which issued from the corall lippes of this prettie Infant, were so rauished in conceite, that neither hell nor fortune could impaire their happines.

Sadony whose settled thoughtes, were now arriued at their wished porte, hauing long wandred like pilgrymes in vnknowne and straunge places, and hauing liued apprentices in the painfull misery of his possions, knowing it to bee the greatest torture and hell of Dolours, when the minde is still in doubt for want of resolution: hauing (I say) reacht the toppe of happines, and brought all his purposes to his wished period, began now to solace and frolike himselfe amonz his lordes and nobles, whose honorable fauours, although before hee had somdeale linked in the Chaine of his desires: yet now by his familiarities, bounties, and princely gouernment, he had more amplie and strongly yelded vnto him, so that amongst them, there passed not so much as a conceit, much lesse any speach of his sovrain birth, but euery one thoght himselfe most happie, whose labour, wealth, or person, might encrease the pleasures of of his Maestie.

Yet among so many nobles and people, it is impossible but gouernment should breaðe contempt, for in one face are many fantasies, in one head many conceits, and in one heart many thoughtes, so that among so many faces, so many heades, and so many heartes, there must needes arise mutinies and dissentions. But here the bright sunne of the element, had spred his beams so hot, that the mistie clouds of treason, were now quite and cleane vanished away.

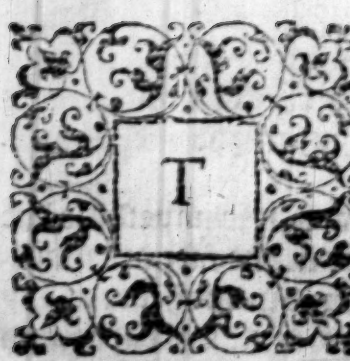
This noble Gentleman Sadony, knowing that abused

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kindnesse engendred spight and mallice, determined all his actions, and proceeding by the rule of sage discret iudgment, appointing such his priuy Counsellors, whose wisdomes and grauities had purchased greatest commendations amongst his people: and by their sage deliberations gouerned y^e kingdome in peace and happinesse. Not according to the ancient vsages of many Nations, which being ruled by forraign princes, doe make their naturall countremen the chiefe commanders, and deprive the homeborne Nobles both of honour and authoritie, which is the spurre that inforceth mutinies and ciuill broyles. No, his kingdome was ruled by their owne lawes, their owne Nobles & countrey men, without exactions, taskes, or grauous impositions to the Commons: so that euerie age with faithfull and friendly consent, cryed Aue to Sadony and his beautiful Ducene. In which prosperity my story enforceth me to leaue him awhile, to recount somewhat of Blanchardine, and the princely educatiō of his sonne Raimbald.

¶ CHAP. 3.

The practises, sportes and deuises
of Raimbald.

 The young Prince Raimbald beeing brought vp within his fathers court, where he beheld the royalties of all personages which approached thither from other nations, being sprung fro the liuely plant and stocke of Blanchardine, could not but imitate the honourable attempts of his father, being by nature ingenious, by complexion beautifull, and by courage stout. Having certaine Nobles of equall yeares appointed for his playfellows, whose tender capacities were not able to comprehend the reach of his aspiring thoughts. These I say, delighting in childish teyes according to the prouerbe *Pueri Crescendia gestant*, bee vtterly mis-

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misliked as things of no validity, but reasoned with himselfe thus. *Aquila non capit muscas. Leoni Cattulum*, And in stead of following the chase of the fearful Hare, he desired manfully to incounter the Lions whelpe, and in pursute of the little Partridge, the Eagles bird. So that in his tender age he presaged his future valor and noble corage. A great admiration to his countrey-men, a terror to his faint friendes, and a most sweet comfort to his princely parents. But as the fire being once kindled cannot long be concealed: or as the Sea hauing found a current, may not be stopped: so this Iouincei Raimbald, whose kingly thoughtes had kindled a furnace of conceits within his royall breast, weary of home-bred sportes, sought many meanes to lengthen forth the time of his liberty, being tyed (as he thought) within too short a tether, yet loath to manifest what he pzeneditated. And least suspicion might arise by reason of his melancholies, he was contented to spend some time among his young companions, yet with such majestic and princely grace, as though already he had undertaken the Regiment. And as he saw the vsages and customes within his fathers Court, so he amid his consozts practised y imitation, both of their Counsels & imperiall commaundes, punishing with a certain familiar penance, those that were faulty, and gracing good default with honorable bounty. But being now arined to some years of discretion, and finding his samty surcharged with intollerable griefe for his restraint, impatient altogether of his bondage, finding Blanchardine and his faire mother for their disportes to solace themselves in their secret walkes, hauing found the meane to enter their preface, after his humble reuerence down vnto them, with more then childish grace, began to importune them in this sort.

As it is impossible (most honorable father) to draw from Hemlock, hony: from glasse, gold: & from vice vertue: so is it likewise most absurd, to suppose, that from a pleasant fountaine, may distill a bitter stream. Although my darke Enigma may bring wonder to your princely eares, to heare me so obscurely to discover my humble meaning, yet I craue pardon, to perseuer to y ful of my intent, which if it sort (with your fauor) to me

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my fancy: heauen it selfe may not affoord me a greater happe. But if I thought that these my speeches should incence your Maiestie and princely displeasure against me: rather had I to conccale and bury my conceites for euer, then once to vtter that which should seeme displeasent.

The king desirous to vnderstande the sequell of Kaimbals petition with a smiling chere, seeing the Image of his person prostrate befoze him, And Imagining, that nothing worthy blame could procede from the deuine Oracle of his lippes: reaching his hand to lift him from the ground, commaunded him to go on in his purpose, and that he should not faile in accomplishment of his petition: which princely grace did adde such courage, both to his tongue and spirit, that after some little pause, he pursued his enterprize in these tearmes.

Noble father and most diuine Mother, although my yeres be greene, and my capacitie slender, yet I perceiue that this worlde is but a weary stage, where euery one must play his part, first for the honoz of God, Secondly for the benefit of his Cuntrey, and lastly for the grace of himselfe. For like as on the stage there are many eyes awaiting, to take the Actors in a trip: so on him that is discēded of noble parentage, are many bigillant eyes, attentiuely beholding the course of his life, which if they finde honozable and worthy his discent, they do grace with a princely plaudyte: But if with floath or dishonoz, they blot with eternall obloquie.

And now (right princely father) since it hath pleased the immortall God to seat you in his regall throne, the chiefe commaunder of this mightie kingdome and people of Tormaday, and that from your sacred loynes, as a bzaunch from so royall a stocke I am sprung forth, that it would please you to inuest me with that honozable order of knightthode, wherof though as yet, I finde my selfe altogether vnworthy, considering my youth & tender age, yet what my yong yeres deny me to accomplish, my elder age shall with honoz performe, to the seruice of God, benefit of my cuntrey, and eternizing of your name.

Looke noble father into the groundwozke of my thoughtes, I am your childe which impoztune, and therefore nature willes

